

The mission of Annius.

A century after the civil wars that had bloodied the Italian peninsula, the Roman Empire was at its optimum period of splendor and prosperity. But evil always finds its way ...

In a small province, a series of mysterious murders had occurred.

The dead and horribly beheaded bodies are found in the countryside outside the city.

Nothing seems to link the victims together and the news of the horrendous crimes reach Rome stirring outrage. The situation requires the assistance of an envoy from the Emperor in order to investigate the case. This envoy, Lentulus, in turn, is horribly murdered. For the Emperor the offense is tremendous! He then decides to contact Annius, his most faithful correspondent and close friend of Lentulus, and convinces him to go to Pompeii himself.

His task is to unravel the mystery and avenge his friend's death.

The final recommendation is to be suspicious of everyone, as anyone could be the enemy ...

Pompeii, a crossroads of trade and commerce and a free port for the people coming from the most remote corners of the Empire, seems filled with a strange tension.



1 - Annius witnessing a cruel and unexpected scene.

Soon he discovers that a group of rebels who resent domination, operates in the city, and the Governor, chosen by *cursus honorum*, acts with repression rather than listening to the grievances of his subjects.

Annius is divided between the rush of finding the killers of his friend and the difficulty of deciphering the many contradictory messages and false clues that gradually reveal themselves.

The investigation leads him into contact with many characters, often ambiguous and distrustful, who avoid his questions by taking refuge in the silence and disinterest of political issues.

A major step forward would be finding the mysterious informant that Lentulus mentioned in his latest letters, although without making known his face or name.

After many twists and turns, when the distinction between friends and enemies will become increasingly blurred and after having revealed the last crucial days of his murdered companion, Annius will find himself helpless and at the mercy of the volcano...



2 - Annius during investigations.